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NOTES AND QUERIES.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK-LORE CONGRESSES. — The recent session of the congress, a condensed account of which is above printed, suggests some remarks. (1.) With regard to the significance of the term, the extremely catholic extension given by the directors of the congress, in their programme, will preclude any subsequent limitation. Folk-lore must be considered as including all surviving popular tradition, that is, both the tradition of words and that of custom. The application will vary with geographical boundaries; each people, in using the word, will think of the primitive notions and usages surviving in its own territory, as is well illustrated by the interesting communication on the folk-lore of Ceylon. So considered, "folk-lore" becomes an expression belonging to anthropology. It is a convenient, inclusive term, under which can be housed several branches of research which elsewhere meet with only a chilling reception. Its advantage is in emphasizing the importance of gathering up unwritten history, the history of ideas and manners belonging to any particular race. As for the science of folk-lore, the definition of this, for my own part, I should leave to the several investigators, who will doubtless conceive their respective departments in their own way. What primarily concerns us is the material, which will lend itself to be used by many sciences.

(2.) Congresses serve two good purposes: first, they make investigators in certain lines acquainted with each other; secondly, they bring the themes to the attention of the public, a notoriety which in its turn exerts an animating influence on the scholars themselves.

(3.) The great difficulty in rendering interesting the proceedings of a congress is, that the papers, being orally delivered, should be intended for the ear, whereas they are usually prepared with a view of being printed, and therefore designed for the eye. The result is, that they fail in effect on account of their conciseness and solidity. The conclusion seems to be that the articles ought indeed in the first instance to be written, so as to appear in the Proceedings; but they should not be read as written. The relator should be content with stating orally the substance of what his paper is intended to set forth; this oral relation may then become the basis of an interesting discussion, always the most fruitful part of a public meeting inasmuch as all the rest might equally well be simply committed to the printed page.

(4.) In the present congress, the contingent from France, Germany, and other European countries was not numerous. It is to be hoped that this may in the future be remedied, as the next session of the congress will undoubtedly be held on the Continent.

W. W. N.

ROUMANIAN FOLK-LORE. — Since Roumanian literature has but little circulation in this country, it gives us pleasure to notice that folk-lorists are at work in that distant kingdom also, and seem to be busy in collecting the rich stores of tales, myths, and legends preserved among the peasantry. A tale entitled "*Fêt-Frumos din Lacrima*" has been "transcribed" or para-